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C E N T R A L   I N T E L L I G E N C E   A G E N C Y

1 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans (OIR)  
Colonel Paul S. Reinecke, USA (G-2)  
Captain B. E. Wiggin, USN (ONI)  
Colonel Willis B. Sawyer, USAF (AFOIN-2B2)  
Colonel Floyd E. Dunn, USA (JIG)

SUBJECT : SNIE 11-4-55, "Review of Current Soviet Willingness  
to Assume Risks of General War"

1. The Secretary of State has requested that we reexamine, as a matter of "crash" priority, our estimate of Soviet willingness to assume risks of general war. We plan to have a draft ready for IAC consideration at the IAC meeting scheduled for 10:45 Tuesday, 8 February.

2. The following questions indicate the general range of information and intelligence which we believe is required as a basis for this review:

- a. In the light of recent developments in the world situation is there reason to alter the views stated in previous National Estimates on Communist intentions with respect to general war or willingness to entertain substantial risks of general war?
- b. Is there any current or recent evidence which indicates that the Communists are likely to miscalculate US intentions? In particular, does it appear likely that the Communists will so misread US intentions that fear of general war will not deter them from aggressive courses of action?

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- c. Do the Communists believe that their vital security interests are so engaged in the prevention of German rearmament and in the "liberation" campaign in the Formosa Straits as to warrant their assuming increased risks of war?
- d. To what extent do Soviet and Chinese Communist views differ on the issues raised by the above questions?

3. To assure maximum departmental participation in the pre-drafting and coordination stages of this estimate we plan to adhere as closely as possible to the following schedule:

- 10:00 Wednesday (2 Feb.) - Mr. Cline, OCI, and Mr. Hitchcock, NIC, to brief Board on current indications bearing on present Soviet policy.
- 2:00 Wednesday (2 Feb.) - IAC representatives to make oral contributions.
- Thursday (3 Feb.) - O/NE Staff to prepare draft.
- 9:30 Friday (4 Feb.) - Board to meet on draft.
- 4:00 Friday (4 Feb.) - Board draft to be delivered to IAC representatives.
- 9:30 Monday (7 Feb.) - IAC representatives to meet with Board.
- 10:45 Tuesday (8 Feb.) - IAC to meet on draft.
- 4:00 Tuesday (8 Feb.) - IAC approved estimate to be delivered to State.

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4. In view of the above schedule, it is requested that your representatives meet with us at 2:00, Wednesday, 2 February, in Room 132, for discussion designed to permit your representatives to make oral contributions as a basis for subsequent drafting.

*Paul A. Borel*

PAUL A. BOREL

Deputy Assistant Director  
National Estimates

Distribution "B"

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